

September 4, 2008 SLCSD 9:30 a.m to 3:30 p.m.



# Gifted & Talented

Coordinators Meeting

#### Introductions - Dr. Brenda Burrell

Welcomed the group and introduced Moya Kessig as the new specialist for Gifted and Talented at the Utah State Office of Education. The Gifted and Talented Coordinators from each district introduced themselves to the group.

# Project M3 Presentation – Kathy Wiedow, Kendall-Hunt Publishing

Project M3: the Mentoring Mathematical Minds incorporates the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics content and process standards as well as including the Exemplary Practices in Gifted Education recommended by the NAGC. The goal of the program is to create a challenging and motivational curriculum, increase math achievement and improve attitudes toward math in talented and diverse students. The program includes implementation strategies, hint cards; think beyond cards, and ideas for student mathematician's journal. Kathy Wiedow provided an overview of the program and the teaching resources available with the program.

Davis School District is piloting the program and reviews have been very positive. Website: kendallhunt.com/m3 or projectm3.org

#### Input on Gifted and Talented Endorsement – Moya Kessig

Reviewed the current form used for the Gifted and Talented endorsement. There are a number of issues regarding the endorsement: if a person holds an endorsement from another state should he/she be automatically granted a Utah endorsement. Currently, the endorsement form states teaching experience. The discussion revolved around the issue of how many years of teaching experience should be required if any and is it only teaching experience with high ability learners. Since staffing G&T classes is difficult at this time, should the requirements be broad in nature? The group will discuss it at the next meeting.

#### Class Codes for Gifted and Talented Class Codes – Jennifer Lambert

The problem is each year elementary students cannot be assigned to classes spanning more than one grade level. Therefore, split and Gifted & Talented classes may have an educator assigned to them in CACTUS but students must be assigned to the appropriate grade -level class. Each year this causes difficulties with CRT's. There are two possible solutions to solve the problem:

- Make the Gifted & Talented class (1-6) valid only for educators. Students in G&T classes would be assigned to the appropriate grade -level course.
- Create new G&T classes for each grade level. Jennifer Lambert outlined the benefits and drawback of each solution.

The group's recommendation was solution 1: Make the G&T class valid only for educators, and assign students to the appropriate grade- level class.

#### CRT Test Results - Sue Savage-Sakashita

Sue requested that Gifted and Talented students' CRT's be flagged so that district's can track G&T student test results. Moya will talk with the assessment folks and report back to the group.

## Upcoming Events:

- USOE Technology Implementation Fair Nov 7<sup>th</sup>
- Utah Association for Gifted Children Annual Conference January 29th – 31st

New and follow-up agenda items:

- GT endorsement requirements
- CRT flags for identified G/T students
- Topics for this year
- High Ability Initiative Project Update
- WIMBA training
- District Gifted and Talented Programs K -12

Utah State Office of Education (USDE) 250 East 500 South P.O. Box 144200 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200 Phone: 801-538-7742 Fax: 801-538-7769 moya.kessig@schools.utah.gov



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# Rocky Mountain Academic Talent Search - Dr. Amy Rushneck

The Talent Search program is an opportunity for students to take "above-level" tests. This program is an excellent way for helping students and parents evaluate academic strengths, educational needs and educational programs. Dr Rushneck reviewed which students would be eligible to participate in the Talent Search, why they should participate and procedures to register for the test.

Website: www.du.edu/city

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# High Ability Initiative Project – Moya Kessig & Chris Snodgrass

#### Thank You

Thanks and appreciation was expressed to all the G&T coordinators who have worked for many years to get this funding for high ability students. Many people have donated hours at the legislature to ensure this program would receive funding.

#### **Application and Selection Process**

Moya Kessig thanked the districts who made application for the High Ability Initiative Project. There was an open application process, a committee reviewed the applications and developed a rubric based on the different components of the project identified in the law. The committee was unanimous in their decision to award the project to Washington School District. A copy of the authorizing legislation was included in the meeting materials.

#### **Project Overview**

Chris Snodgress reviewed the overall goal of the project and the measurable objectives. There will be a monthly update on the progress of the project at the G&T meeting. Washington is in the process of hiring a project director and the announcement would be sent out to all districts.

#### Meeting Schedule - Moya Kessig

There will be four meetings hosted by the USOE: September 4<sup>th</sup>, December 11<sup>th</sup>, March 12<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup>. The other meetings will be hosted by districts, and they will be responsible for all aspects of the meeting. There are a few meetings that will end at 11:30a.m. The schedule will be updated and sent out with the notes.

# Meeting days & WIMBA possibilities

After a discussion, the group decided to leave the meetings on Thursday. There was also a discussion of possibly using WIMBA for the meetings .It is not possible at this time but Moya will explore the possibility of using it in the future. The group requested training on WIMBA this will be explored and discussed at the next meeting.

#### **Meeting Topics** – Moya Kessig

The discussion of possible topics for meetings included: identifying underserved populations of gifted learners, reviewing successful strategies for recruiting underserved populations, identifying strategies for building strong IB/AP programs (vertical teaming with junior high schools) and recognizing the needs of twice exceptional learners. This will be on the next meeting agenda.



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### Annual Application - Moya Kessig

The annual CUSAP report is due to USOE by Nov, 17, 2008. Included in the meeting materials was a copy of Rule277-711-1 and an outline for what should be included in the district plan. There is additional helpful information on the USOE website in the handbook. If anyone needs help, please contact Moya 538-7742.

#### District Gifted and Talented Programs - Moya Kessig

In the October meeting Moya requested that each district take a few minutes and discuss the programs that are available for high ability learners in their district. If the district has a brochure please share it with the group.

#### Discussion Items - Group

The group requested the following items be placed on each meeting's agenda:

- 1. Update on the High Ability Initiative Project
- 2. Update on UAGC activities

Fall Seminar: Differentiation in the Regular Classroom & Parent

Seminar

Place: Cedar City

Date September 26 & 27

www.uagc.org

3. Concerns and issues

Thank You to Sue Savage- Sakashita for providing a meeting space.

